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# House Panel Opens Inquiry on U.S. Efforts to Combat Spying

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WASHINGTON, June 14 — The House Select Committee on Intelligence has begun an investigation of the spy case against John A. Walker Jr. and of American counterintelligence efforts, officials said today.

The inquiry will try to determine whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies have enough manpower to handle "growing Soviet efforts at espionage," said an official close to the panel.

The official, who asked not to be named, said that the committee was concerned that too few investigators had been assigned to watch Soviet agents working in the United States. Members of the House intelligence panel were briefed earlier this week on the purported Navy spy ring.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Information, Justice and Agriculture have announced similar investigations.

## Death Penally Bill Introduced

In a related development, the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, and four other Republican Senators introduced a bill that would reinstate the death penalty for civilians and military personnel convicted of espionage in peacetime.

The bill would also permit the Pentagon to expand the use of polygraphs, or

lie detectors, in an effort to detect security breaches.

Mr. Walker, the Virginia man accused of forming the spy ring, and three other men have been arrested in the case. Mr. Walker and his 22-year-old son, Michael L. Walker, have already been indicted on espionage charges.

Law-enforcement officials said that indictments were expected next week for the other two, Arthur J. Walker, John Walker's older brother, and Jerry A. Whitworth, a California man described as John Walker's closest friend. Michael Walker was a yeoman aboard the aircraft Nimitz, and the three others are retired from the Navy.

## Access Reduction Sought

The inquiry by the House intelligence panel is also expected to focus on the large number of military officials with security clearance.

Several members of Congress have said that too many people have access to classified documents, and the Defense Department has announced plans to cut the number because of the Walker case.

"There should be a reduction in the number of people who have access to this material," said Representative Anthony C. Beilenson, a California Democrat who is chairman of the panel's legislation subcommittee. He also said that fewer documents should be classified, another possible topic for the investigation.

An official close to the panel said that the committee would probably review the procedures used by the military for background checks. Because of the Walker case, those procedures have been criticized in recent weeks.

But the official, who has been briefed about the Walker investigation, said it was unclear that better procedures would have detected the spy ring John Walker is accused of heading.

"These people were exemplary sailors," he said. "They had excellent records, and it's not clear they could have been found out."

The co-sponsors of the Senate bill introduced today, in addition to Mr. Dole, were Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, chairman of the Judiciary Committee; Barry Goldwater of Arizona, chairman of the Armed Services Committee; Jesse Helms of North Carolina, and Phil Gramm of Texas.

Senator Gramm said that the bill, the National Security Protection Act, was drafted by the staffs of the Armed Services Committee and Navy officials.

In a statement, he said that the legislation addressed "the breaches in security which have been highlighted by the Walker case and which pose a grave peril to national security."

"We face a real problem, and the Walker case illustrates that," he said, noting that new high-technology weapons such as the Stealth bomber designed to evade detection by radar had been the target of espionage.

There is no death penalty for spies under civilian law, and the death penalty for spying can be applied under military law only in time of war.

Earlier this week, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said that the penalty for peacetime espionage should be execution.

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